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Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00647 071222Z

44
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 EB-11 OMB-01 DRC-01

ACDA-19 /145 W
---------- 090743
P 071200Z FEB 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3945
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0647

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80
TAGS: MARR, NATO, US
SUBJECT: OVERSEAS BASE CLOSURES

REF: A. SECDEF 8005 B. SECDEF 7712 C. STATE 236057
D. USNATO 1187, MAR 7, 1973 E. ROME 4902, JUN 5, 1973

1. I HAVE JUST SEEN THE REPORT OF THE DISCUSSION ON OVERSEAS BASE CLOSINGS AT YESTERDAY'S DOD NEWS BRIEFING (REF A).

2. ON DEC 3 I NOTIFIED LUNS AND DPC PERMREPS THAT THE US WAS CONTEMPLATING SOME REDUCTION IN OVERSEAS BASES, AND THAT DETAILS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AFTER THE UNITED STATES HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH NATIONS INVOLVED. MY LETTER DREW UPON SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF NOV 30 (REFS B AND C). ON DEC 4 THE NATO PRESS SERVICE CIRCULATED A NEWS ITEM LOCALLY. THUS THE FACT THAT ADJUSTMENTS ARE IN THE OFFING HAS BEEN REVEALED TO NATO ALLIES BOTH OFFICIALLY AND IN THE PRESS.

3. IN THE CASE OF PROJECT FENDER, WE FOLLOWED A SCENARIO FOR INFORMING ALLIES THAT WAS CAREFULLY COORDINATED WITH GENERAL MILTON AND AMBASSADOR VOLPE (REFS D AND E). I BELIEVE THAT CONFIDENTIAL
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A SIMILAR APPROACH MODIFIED OF COURSE TO FIT THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED: IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT WE WISH TO TAKE ALLIED SENSITIVITIES INTO ACCOUNT IN OUR PLANNING, ALLAY ANY FEARS OF A UNILATERAL US WITHDRAWAL AND STRENGTHEN OUR TRACK RECORD ON CONSULTATION IN GENERAL.

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SINCE SUBJECT IS INCREASINGLY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, I RECOM-
MEND THAT WE MOVE QUICKLY AND THAT I BE GIVENSUFFICIENT
DETAILS TO INITIATE CONSULTATION PROCESS IN COORDINATION WITH
US AMBASSADORS IN HOST COUNTRIES.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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